



Town of Rowe
Board of Selectmen Minutes
Tuesday, November 17, 2020 –4:00 p.m.
VIA TELECONFERENCE

This meeting will be held via video conference, consistent with Gov. Baker's temporary modifications to Open Meeting Law due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Board of Selectmen: Chair Charles Sokol, Selectman Joanne Semanie
Absent: Selectman Ed Silva
Administrative Staff: Janice Boudreau, Executive Secretary, Paul McLatchy III Administrative Assistant
Audience of Citizens: None

Call to Order: Chair Sokol called the meeting to order at 4:00 P.M., a quorum of the board present via remote participation.

MOTION: Roll call vote to call to order:

Chair Sokol: **yes**

Silva: **absent**

Vice-Chair Semanie: **yes**

Background: This group of individuals (self-titled "Covid Group") has been meeting weekly for the past few months to listen to the state Covid-19 briefings and discuss ongoing matters in town related to the pandemic. As Board of Health Clerk Joanne Semanie was elected last Saturday to the Board of Selectmen, there is now a quorum of the board present during these weekly meetings, and as such, must take place in open session.

Covid Discussion: The following points/topics were addressed during discussion:
Maggie Rice, Board of Health Chair reported the following:

- There is concern as there are 66 new cases of COVID19 in Franklin County reported in the last 2 weeks
- In the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) meeting it was stressed that there should be no more than 10 people at a gathering
- There seems to be confusion about quarantining – it means that the person should not leave the house.
- There are 2 vaccines that sound promising and the FRCOG Health Services are continuing to work on plans for distribution and there will be 2 shots
- There were reports of people not wearing masks at the house and the Board of Health will inform the attendants to ask people to leave if they do not wear masks

The following message was prepared for the Public Notification System:

"Good Evening Rowe Residents,

The following is the weekly message regarding the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic. Topics include a reiteration of points made in previous messages and includes information regarding CDC guidance for the upcoming holiday season.

Although much focus has been on the spread of the coronavirus at care facilities and at larger gatherings, studies published in the International Journal of Infectious Disease estimate approximately 70% of coronavirus transmission is due to contact within households. With that in mind, please consider the following guidance provided by the CDC regarding the upcoming holiday season:

Limit in-person holiday gatherings to only people you live with or limit to a small group of individuals with whom you are regularly in contact

If you do plan to attend a gathering including people with whom you do not have regular contact, consider the following:

- If gathering indoors, improve ventilation by opening windows and doors.
- Everyone brings their own food, drinks, plates, cups, and utensils.
- Everyone wears a mask, and safely store their mask while eating and drinking.
- Everyone avoid going in and out of the areas where food is being prepared or handled, such as in the kitchen.
- and everyone use single-use options, like salad dressing and condiment packets as opposed to shared containers

The safest way to protect those around you, and to reduce the risk of exposure to yourself, is to limit in-person exposure to others. As has been the case for those who have been exposed to the coronavirus, such exposure can lead to a state-mandated 14-day at-home quarantine period.

This year's holiday season will be different from those in the past and will likely be different than what many of us have hoped for. However, with proper precautions, we can help prevent this season from becoming someone else's last holiday season.

The Rowe Coronavirus task force will continue to keep you updated on these and other coronavirus topics on an on-going basis, typically with weekly updates or when prudent.

Thank you, and stay healthy"

Adjournment:

MOTION: Chair Sokol made a motion to adjourn the meeting 4:46 p.m. The motion was seconded by Selectman Semanie.

MOTION: Roll call vote to call to order:

Chair Sokol: yes

Silva: absent

Vice-Chair Semanie: yes

Respectfully Submitted,

Janice Boudreau, Executive Secretary

Approval Date: NOVEMBER 23, 2020

Approved:



Chuck Sokol, Chair



Selectman Joanne Semanie

Documents:

- Agenda November 17, 2020